



Tips for Effective Advocacy

Oregon ACP Advocacy Day is **one** activity in Oregon ACP's year-round work to create and maintain relationships with Oregon legislators. It is critical that your meetings with legislators build on this work. Remember, your professional expertise makes you a valuable resource on health-related issues for your legislators. Below is advice on preparing for your meetings and ideas for follow-up.

Pre-Meeting Preparation

- Participate in the Oregon ACP Advocacy Day 2022 virtual workshops on the morning of Feb 10th. These sessions will teach advocacy skills and will also walk you through the logistics of your virtual meeting schedules and available resources in the Oregon ACP Advocacy Day 2022 HUB.
- Convene your advocacy team prior to meeting with lawmakers in order to coordinate speaking roles and decide on which issues to raise during a given meeting.
- Develop an informal agenda for each meeting. Familiarize yourselves with each legislator's background, committee assignments, political orientation, and policy priorities.
- Study the Oregon ACP Chapter's priority issues as posted on the Advocacy HUB website.
- Generally, you can expect 15-20 minutes of your legislator's time, or their staff. Since his or her time is limited, be sure to be accurate, brief and try to tell your legislator or their staff something new (e.g., a story on how the issues/policies affect constituents back home).

Tips for a Successful Meeting

- When advocating in a virtual meeting, join your meetings five minutes early to organize your team. While you want to follow the lead of your lawmaker during the meeting, remember that you have a purpose and an agenda. Try to keep introductions brief to optimize time. After introductions, briefly describe Oregon ACP and your own practice. Personalize your remarks.
- Take advantage of this opportunity to discuss issues with your lawmakers and their staff by being as specific as possible in what you are asking them to do ("I'm asking you to cosponsor...")
- End the visit by soliciting the legislator's or staff's views of each issue you have discussed. If there is disagreement, listen to his or her perspective and then present your views. You will enhance your effectiveness if you can demonstrate a willingness to participate in a friendly exchange of ideas. **If there is agreement, get the legislator's commitment to take the specific action(s) requested on each issue (e.g., cosponsor a bill).**
- As you conclude the meeting, let your legislator know that you will be emailing them copies of the issue briefs. Thank the legislator for their time and offer to be a resource on health issues.

Meeting Follow-Up

- One member of your group should be assigned to follow up with the legislator by email in order to send a thank you note and copies of the Oregon ACP issue briefs.
- One member of your group should be assigned to send an email report back to Oregon ACP leadership about how the meeting went, whether the legislator agreed to support any bills, and what if any support from Oregon ACP they legislator would like in the future. Please send your email to joel.burnett.md@gmail.com and cc oregonacp@comcast.net